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January 15, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 164 – December 2020 Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) <u>Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the</u> previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On December 2, EPA/CPG telephone conversation between Diane Salkie and Robert Law regarding the status of the IR FS.
- On December 9, EPA/CPG telephone conversation between Diane Salkie and Robert Law regarding IR FS status.

Correspondence

- On December 1, Region 2 provided one additional comment on the IR FS.
- On December 2, Region 2 provided a letter stating no further action was required for the RARC Plan for the 17-mile RI/FS.
- On December 4, the CPG delivered a revised Draft Final IR FS to Region 2.
- On December 11, Region 2 provided conditional approval of the December 4 Draft Final IR FS to the CPG.

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• On December 15, CPG delivered the November 2020 Monthly Progress Report (#163) to Region 2.

- On December 15 and 18, CPG delivered the 2019/2020 Current Conditions Chemical Water Column Monitoring Data Summary Report.
- On December 16, Region 2 provided comments on the Newark Bay Study Area Modeling Reports.
- On December 22, CPG delivered a revised NBSA Chemical Fate and Transport Modeling Report to Region 2.

Work

- CPG continued reviewing and preparing responses to Region 2 comments on the revised September 30, 2020 Draft Final Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG continued preparing data summary reports for the 2020 Current Conditions surface water monitoring program.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG revised the Newark Bay Study Area Modeling Reports as directed by Region
 2.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will address to Region 2's comments on the Draft 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling and the 2019/2020 Surface Water Monitoring Data Summary Reports as received.
- CPG will address Region 2's comments on the Newark Bay Study Area RI/FS Hydrodynamic-Sediment Transport and Organic Carbon Modeling Reports.

(d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>

 Work/travel safety restrictions associated with COVID-19 have impacted and delayed 2020 Current Conditions Biota Sampling field work. Ms. D. Salkie LPRSA RI/FS - Progress Report No. 164 – December 2020 January 15, 2021 Page 3 of 3 de maximis, inc

If you have any questions, please contact me at 215-806-7688.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Robert Law, Ph.D.

CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel

Dawn Lamparello, CPG Coordinating Counsel

Lisa Baron, USACE Clay Stern, USFWS

Reyhan Mehran, NOAA

Jay Nickerson, NJDEP

Beth Franklin, USACE

Detirirankini, OOAOL

Laura Kelmar, AECOM

David Marabello, CDM-Smith Scott Kirchner, CDM-Smith